



The Communicator September 2004

www.ams.usda.gov/nmna



Used by permission from the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association.

I hope you are ready for the 47th annual conference. It's a first for Maryland and we are gearing up for lots of fun! If you haven't already done so, please send in your NMNA registration (online, mail or fax) and payment, plus reserve yourself a room at the Wyndham Inner Harbor Hotel by the October 14 deadline. The Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel is nestled in the heart of the Baltimore business district. Surrounding the Wyndham is Lexington Market, Antique Row, the Baltimore Arena, the Baltimore Convention Center, the Morris Mechanic Theater, Raven's football stadium and Oriole's Park at Camden Yards.

Here are the details:

As you arrive on Thursday, please remember to check in at the registration desk. That same evening there will be a Welcome reception complete with appetizers, a cash bar, and music. On Friday, we have planned a busy general session agenda. This will be followed by Friday afternoon and Saturday commodity workshops. Friday evening we'll enjoy Baltimore's skyline from the water as we set sail aboard the Bay Lady for a casual dinner cruise. They'll be a DJ for dancing and a silent auction for terrific items to build our scholarship fund. Don't worry about the weather, even if Charm city's harbor is cool, we'll be sailing in heated comfort. Buses will transport you to the dock or enjoy the 10 minute walk (7 blocks) from the hotel. Saturday evening is the Awards Banquet and we'll celebrate with a sit-down dinner, some Maryland cooking, and the live scholarship auction. This year our auctioneer will be our very own, Richard Hruspka.

Hotel Reservations:

Wyndham Inner Harbor Hotel

101 W. Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Deadline: October 14, 2004

Call 1-800-996-3426 or reserve on-line at:

On-line hotel reservations can also be made through this website:

<http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents/124NMNA/main.wnt>.

Room rates are \$133.00 plus tax for a single person or double person room. Identify yourself as a member of the National Market News Association. This is a change from the last printing as the government per diem rate changes October 1st. Room rates are good for 2 days before and after group arrival and departure based on availability. Reservations at the per diem rate cannot be guaranteed after the reservation deadline so make your reservations prior to October 14th. Reservations can be cancelled without charge 72 hours prior to arrival. Also, if for some reason you are checking out of the hotel earlier than intended than indicated on your initial reservation, please let the hotel know at check in; otherwise, they will charge you an early departure fee. Spouses and guests must be registered in order to participate in the spouse program activities listed on the registration form. To see what the area has to offer check out: www.wyndham.com/baltimoreinnerharbor.

NMNA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Deadline: October 14, 2004

The registration form is included in this issue. You can register by mail, fax or on-line. The Registration fee is \$140.00 for members, spouse and guest fees are \$75.00 and membership dues are \$7.00. You can make a scholarship donation at this time as well or wait for the auction.

E-registration: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nmna>

Fax to: 410-799-4840

Mail to: Holly Mozal, NMNA

MD Wholesale Produce Market

7460 Conowingo Ave, A-30

Jessup, MD 20794

**Remember to mail your payment separately if you are e-mailing or faxing your registration.

**Indicate on the registration form in the comment section whether you plan to participate in the Friday evening Harbor dinner cruise and whether your spouse or guest is attending.

Notice: For those of you who attempted to e-register during the period August 16-30, the NMNA registration process was experiencing technical difficulties. If you were one of these folks (including Alumni), please resubmit your registration or fax your printed copy to 410-799-4840. Even though you received a confirmation notice, we did not receive it during that period of time. Sorry for any inconvenience.

TRANSPORTATION: AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE – SUPER SHUTTLE

Call 1-800-BLUE VAN (1-800-258-3826) or On-line at www.supershuttle.com,

The Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) airport is located eight miles south of the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel. The NMNA rate per individual is \$11.00 one way, \$18.00 round trip, which must be paid by the traveler. The Round trip fare is only available at the airport or on-line. Reservations are not needed for arrival; however, return reservations must be made 24 hours prior to your departure date and time. When making on-line reservations, take advantage of the round-trip discount by entering the following group discount code: K3X78. A reservation does not mean a van will be waiting for you upon arrival at BWI; however, it does allow you to make your pre-paid ground transfer travel arrangements from and to the airport before you get to Baltimore. Travelers must check in at the Super Shuttle desk at Ground Transportation upon arrival. If you made a reservation on-line, please have your confirmation number available. If you reserved by phone, let the ticket agent know you are with NMNA and going to the Wyndham Inner Harbor. You may then purchase a round-trip ticket. Have your return flight information available so the agent can make your return reservation for you. Keep in mind, the shuttle must pick you up 2-3 hours prior to departure time depending on the time of the day in order to have you at the airport on time. Shuttle drivers can also accept payment, but I highly recommend making your reservations at Super Shuttle desk so you can take advantage of the round-trip discount and don't have to remember to call for the return ride. The SuperShuttle runs 24-7; however, vans are limited during the early morning hours.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Washington, D.C. and points south:

I-95 North to Baltimore. 395 North (exit 53), right lane, ½ mile to Pratt Street, turn right. two blocks to Charles Street, turn left. Four blocks to Fayette Street, turn left. Get in left lane, the Wyndham is one block on the left.

OR

295 North (Baltimore-Washington Parkway) to Baltimore. Proceed to the end of the expressway. 295 North turns into Russell Street. At second light past the stadium is Pratt Street, turn right. Proceed to Charles Street, turn left. Follow 4 blocks to Fayette, turn left. Hotel is 1 block ahead on the left.

From Philadelphia and points north:

I-95 South to Baltimore through Fort McHenry Tunnel to 395 North (exit 53). Go ½ mile to Pratt Street, turn right. Two blocks to Charles Street, turn left. Four blocks to Fayette Street, turn left. Stay in left lane, the Wyndham is one block on the left.

From points West of Baltimore:

I-70 East to Baltimore. Exit 91A, I-695 (beltway) South/Glen Burnie. Exit 11A, I-95 north, to Baltimore. Take 395 North (exit 53) toward Downtown. Follow ½ mile and turn right on Pratt Street. Proceed 3 blocks and turn left on Charles Street. Proceed 4 blocks to Fayette Street, turn left. Wyndham is 1 block ahead on the left.

From BWI Airport

Take route 195 West to I-95 North and then 395 north (exit 53). Follow ½ mile and turn right on Pratt Street. Proceed 3 blocks to Charles Street, turn left. Proceed 4 blocks to Fayette, turn left. Wyndham is 1 block ahead on the left.

PARKING GARAGE INFORMATION

Towne Park – Located under the Wyndham Inner Harbor Hotel. Use the Baltimore Street Entrance. Towne Parks parking fee is \$18.00 per day (24 hour period) for self parking. This offers no in and out privileges. Guests must repay each time. They also offer a \$25.00 per day valet parking fee for small vehicles and with this the guest has unlimited in and out privileges during their stay. Garage height restriction is 6’6”.

Edison Parking – Edison parking is located immediately before the Wyndham on the right (Wyndham is on the left, 101 W. Fayette) at 100 West Fayette Street. 410-659-5824. Fees vary depending on time and date of use. Call for rates.

Scholarship Fundraiser – Silent and Live Auctions!

We will have a silent auction on Friday and a live auction on Saturday evening this year to raise money for the scholarship fund. It is always a lot of fun so bring your checkbooks along and make it worthwhile. We are looking for donations from members to support this worthy cause and help an Agriculture student in need. Please think about an item you could contribute and mail it to Holly Mozal. If you want to bring the item with you, e-mail or call Michelle Bowers (michelle.bowers@usda.gov or 202-690-4430) and let her know so your item and the donors name can be included on the auction item list by October 14. We’ve had great items in the past, and I’m sure you all can think of some really good items!

NMNA Award Nominations! – Deadline: September 17, 2004

If you haven’t already done so, be sure to submit your nominations for our NMNA awards. We have a lot of outstanding Reporters in our membership and this is your chance to nominate them for recognition. The nomination forms are on the NMNA website in the Award section. Complete the application, click submit, and receive an e-mailed confirmation. It’s that simple. If you have questions, contact Donald Carnes, Awards Committee Chairman.

Spouse and Guest Program:

Thursday evening we will welcome you to Baltimore with an appetizer reception and some light music. Friday gets busy as your program hosts, Lolita Payne and Vivian Thompson, help you board the trolley for a downtown historical tour of Baltimore, showcasing numerous historical sites and attractions. Bob Oliver, our tour guide, was formerly a History teacher in Baltimore schools and is very knowledgeable and entertaining. After lunch on your own (there’s no shortage of great restaurants at the Inner Harbor), you will have time to explore the Inner Harbor area attractions or shops. At 3:00 a bus will take you back to the hotel. If you would like to return earlier, call the hotel shuttle or walk the brief 10 minute walk and hit more shops on the way. Friday evening you can float your cares away aboard Baltimore’s Bay Lady ship for a casual dinner cruise to the Francis Scott Key Bridge and back. Bring your dancing shoes, appetite and checkbook for the silent auction and don’t worry about the weather, the Bay Lady is climate controlled.

Saturday, November 6: You will be traveling to historic Fells Point to experience Baltimore’s maritime history on a walking guided ghost tour (www.fellspointghost.com). You’ll visit many of the haunted joints and possibly see a sailor’s ghost!!!! Ooooooh! Fell’s Point was also the setting for the hit series Homicide. The tour is less than 1 mile on public sidewalks with several stops along the way. Dress appropriately for the elements and where your comfy shoes. Afterwards there will be time to shop in the terrific array of shops and antique stores or stroll along the original cobblestone streets before gathering for lunch at Cooper’s Tavern. If it’s chilly, we’ll light the fireplace. After lunch there will be a little more

time to sightsee – maybe catch a glimpse of Baltimore’s famed painted screen doors. The shuttle bus will meet you at 3:00 p.m. to bring you back to the Wyndham.

NMNA OFFICERS

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WELDON HALL, EX OFFICIO, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

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MARKET NEWS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (MNA) UPDATE:

The MNA has planned a meeting for Friday, November 5 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the McKeldin room on the Cabana Level of the hotel. Your Alumni group photograph will be taken at this time as well.

President – Weldon Hall

Vice-President – Charlie Hackensmith

Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Fulton

Membership Committee: James McCallister, Mike Erwin, Paul Fuller.

The Association is actively seeking new members among our Market News retirees so if you know of someone that has not been contacted please let us know (e-mail sjhall@tds.net). Charter membership dues are \$25.00 and should be sent to Bill Fulton; 101 Secluded Circle; Little Rock, Arkansas 72210.

New Employee – Welcome Eddie Harrill with Poultry Market News in North Carolina. Eddie started after the April Communicator was issued so his name wasn't listed. Glad to have you onboard!

National Market News Association 47th Annual Workshop November 4 - 6, 2004, Baltimore, Maryland

Thursday, November 4

4:00 - 10:00 pm

5:30 - 6:30 pm

7:00 - 9:00

9:00 - 12:00

Registration, Liberty Foyer

Executive Board Meeting

Welcome Reception, Liberty Ballroom

Hospitality Suite

Friday, November 5 – General Session

7:00 - 8:30

7:00 - 8:00

Registration, Liberty Foyer

Continental Breakfast, Liberty Foyer

8:00 - 8:10	Holly Mozal, President, Opening Remarks
8:10 - 8:15	Joe Jones, NSA, National Anthem
8:15 - 8:40	Lewis Riley, MD Secretary of Agriculture
8:40 - 9:00	A.J. Yates, USDA AMS Administrator
9:00 - 10:00	Industry Panel: What's in Store? Dennis Randolph, Regional Buyer Team Leader WAL*MART Stores Jack Tatem, Director of Wholesale & Industrial Sales, Perdue Farms
10:100 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 10:30	Joseph Roeder, Chief Financial Officer, MRP MRP & Market News
10:30 - 10:45	John Okoniewski, FVMN, Web Portal Update
10:45 - 11:00	Pedro Martinez, Director General, ISO 9000
11:00 - 11:30	FAS Representative, Central American Free Trade Assoc & Free Trade Area of the Americas
11:30 - 12:00	Tim McCarty, International Trade Commission, ITC and Market News
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch on Your Own
1:00 - 4:00	Commodity Breakout Sessions Fruit & Vegetable - Liberty B/Hopkins Livestock & Grain - Liberty A Poultry - E.A. Poe
1:00 - 3:00	Market News Alumni Association Meeting & Group Photo, McKeldin
5:00 - 6:00	Buses to Bay Lady
6:00	Board Bay Lady
6:30 - 9:30	Bay Lady dinner cruise, scholarship silent auction benefit
9:30 - 10:30	Buses return to Wyndham
10:00 - 12:00	Hospitality Suite

Saturday, November 6

7:00 - 8:00	Late Registration, Liberty Foyer
7:00 - 8:00	Continental Breakfast, Liberty Foyer
7:30 - 8:00	NMNA Business Meeting, Liberty B
8:00 - 8:30	Branch Photographs, Liberty Foyer FV, LV, PY, TB/MNSU, CO, DY, Spouses/Guests
8:30 - 4:00	Commodity Break Out Sessions Fruit & Vegetable – Liberty B Livestock & Grain – Liberty A Poultry – E.A. Poe
5:00 - 6:00	Social Hour, Liberty Foyer
6:00 - 9:00	NMNA Awards Banquet and benefit auction, Liberty Ballroom
9:00 - 12:00	Hospitality Suite

Fruit & Vegetable Breakout Session

Friday, November 5

1:00 - 3:00	Training – A Web Portal – Fred Teensma & Sytel, A-M, Liberty B Power Point- Lisa VanMeter & Francine Marando L-Z, Hopkins
2:00 - 2:15	Break
3:00 - 5:00	Training – B Web Portal – Fred Teensma & Sytel, L-Z, Liberty B Power Point- Lisa VanMeter & Francine Marando A-M, Hopkins

Saturday, November 6

7:30 - 8:00	NMNA Business Meeting
8:00	Group Photo, Liberty Foyer

8:10 - 8:20	Call to order, Terry Long
8:20 - 8:30	Comments from FV Programs, Robert Keeney
8:30 - 9:00	Technology Update, Fred Teensma and Jeff Test
9:00 - 9:20	Market News Anniversary, George Chartier
9:20 - 9:40	Break
9:40 - 10:00	International Update, Fernando Palmer
10:00 - 10:45	Town Meeting, John Okoniewski
10:45 - 11:30	Price Report Update, Rich DeMenna
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch on your own
1:00 - 1:30	Sound Off, John Okoniewski
1:30 - 1:45	Report on PMA, Patty Willkie
1:45 - 2:15	State of Market News, Terry Long
2:15 - 3:00	Supply Reports Section, Barbara Maxwell
3:00 - 3:15	Break
3:15 - 3:45	Tom Cooper
3:45 - 4:15	Administrative Update, Shirley Terry
4:15 - 4:30	Final Sound Off

Livestock & Grain Breakout Session

Friday, November 5

1:00 - 1:45 pm	Welcome and Introductions
1:45 - 2:15	Administrative Issues
2:15 - 2:30	Break
2:30 - 3:15	APHIS – Current BSE and International Trade Situation
3:15 - 4:00	APHIS – Animal I.D. Program
4:00 - 4:30	Mandatory Reporting- Data Mart

Saturday, November 6

7:30 - 8:00 am	NMNA Business Meeting
8:00 - 8:30	Group Photo, Liberty Foyer
8:30 - 9:00	NASS Livestock Estimate Procedures
9:00 - 9:30	Eric Foreman,
9:30 - 10:00	WAOB Livestock and Meat Situation and Outlook
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 10:45	WAOB Grain Situation and Outlook
10:45 - 11:30	Branch IT Updates
11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:15	Feeder Cattle Reporting Revisions
2:15 - 2:30	Break
2:30 - 4:00	Branch Supervisor Comments and Open Discussion

Poultry and Egg Market News

Friday, November 5

1:00 - 4:00	Strategic Planning Session Reorganization
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Saturday, November 06:

8:15 – 11:30	Poultry Program Management Retreat Career Development Program for Women Status of 2004 Reporting Projects
11:30 – 2:30	Lunch
12:30 - 4:00	Action Plan for FY 2005 Review of Business Processes and Procedures

Conference Spouse and Guest Agenda

Thursday, November 4

4:00 - 10:00 pm Registration, Liberty Foyer
7:00 - 9:00 Welcome Reception, Liberty Ballroom
9:00 - 12:00 Hospitality Suite

Friday, November 5

7:00 - 8:30 am Registration
8:00 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast
9:00 Load Trolley for Tour, Liberty Street Exit, 1st floor
9:15 - 11:00 Trolley Tour of Baltimore and Fort McHenry
11:00 Depart tour at Visitor Center
11:00 - 3:00 Lunch and sightseeing in Inner Harbor on your own
3:00 Bus returns to Wyndham from Visitor Center
4:00 - 6:00 Buses to Bay Lady
6:00 Board Bay Lady
6:30 - 9:30 Bay Lady dinner cruise, scholarship silent auction benefit
9:30 - 10:30 Buses return to Wyndham
10:00 - 12:00 Hospitality Suite

Saturday, November 6

7:00 - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast, Liberty Foyer
8:45 Group Photo
9:00 Board bus to Fell's Point
10:00 Fell's Point Walking Ghost Tour
11:00 - 12:30 Shopping in Fell's Point
12:30 - 2:00 Lunch at Cooper's Tavern
2:00 - 3:00 Sightseeing and Shopping on your own
3:00 Bus returns to Wyndham, Meet at 1728 Thames Street
5:00 - 6:00 Social Hour, Liberty Foyer
6:00 - 9:00 NMNA Awards Banquet and benefit auction, Liberty Ballroom
9:00 - 12:00 Hospitality Suite

Baltimore sights to visit – <http://www.baltimore.org>

Wyndham Hotel provides touch screens with list of Restaurants and Pubs, which are located in their lobby.

Attractions within walking distance:

B&O Railroad Museum	Maryland Science Center
Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum	Museum of Incandescent Lighting
Baltimore Civil War Museum	National Aquarium
Baltimore Maritime Museum	National Museum of Dentistry
Baltimore Museum of Industry	Oriole Park at Camden Yards (tours available)
Eubie Blake Jazz and Cultural Museum	Port Discovery
Fells Point Maritime Museum	Star Spangle Banner Flag House & Museum
Fort McHenry	Top of the World Observatory
Great Blacks in Wax Museum	USS Constellation (civil war era ship)
Maryland Historical Society	Ravens Stadium (M&T Bank)

RAVENS FANS! Although we will be very busy during the conference, football fans would want to know the Ravens are playing a home game on Sunday, November 7 against the Cleveland Browns at 8:30 p.m. at the M&T Bank Stadium. Check out www.baltimoreravens.com to learn more.



**National Market News Association
47th Annual Workshop
Registration Form
Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor,
101 West Fayette Street,
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
November 4 - 6, 2004**

Please complete the following form to register for the 2004 NMNA conference.
Please return with payment by October 14, 2004. Make checks payable to NMNA.

Name _____

Title _____

Commodity Branch _____

Office Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Name of Spouse/Guest _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Member Fee \$140.00 \$ _____
(includes all meetings, Thursday welcome, Friday night
dinner cruise, Saturday awards banquet and hospitality room)

NMNA Dues \$7.00 (Lifetime Members enter the word Lifer) \$ _____

Spouse/Guest Fee \$75.00 \$ _____
(includes transportation and tour admission, Friday night
dinner cruise, Saturday awards banquet and hospitality room)

NMNA Memorial Scholarship Fund Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate if you are attending the Friday evening Harbor dinner cruise. Yes ___ No ___
Please check if spouse or guest is attending Yes ___ No ___

All hotel accommodations need to be made separately through the Wyndham Inner Harbor at 1-800-996-3426 by October 14, 2004 to guarantee rooms and rate. Room rates Single or Double \$133.00 plus tax. Please indicate you are with the NMNA. These rates are good 2 days prior and 2 days after the Conference if reservations are made prior to the above date. If you have any dietary or special needs, please e-mail Holly.Mozal@usda.gov or call 410-799-4840.

Please return registration form and payment to:
Holly R. Mozal
USDA AMS FV Market News, MD Wholesale Produce Market
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